

Minutes from the Town of Walpole**Adams Farm Committee (AFC) Meeting on Dog Issues at Adams Farm****May 15, 2018**

A meeting to discuss dog issues was called to order by Jack Wiley, Chairman of the Adams Farm Committee, in the barn at Adams Farm on May 15, 2018.

ATTENDING: AFC members Linda Connors, Scott Martin, Liz McAfee, Gary Riggott, and Jack Wiley. Also present were approximately 15 interested members of the public, many of whom are dog walkers at the Farm. Jack Wiley circulated and collected an attendance list (see attached).

The meeting was called to order by Jack Wiley at 7:00 p.m.

Introductory comments by Jack Wiley

- The purpose of the AFC.
- The dog issues: dogs off leash (in violation of Town by-laws) and dog poop not being picked up (health issue).
- The Town by-law prohibiting dogs off leash on Town property.
- The purpose of the meeting: to provide a forum in which to discuss the dog issues and to try to find solutions. No vote is to be taken.

Question on the by-law

A question was raised about fines for violating the by-law. Jack Wiley indicated that – per dog -- there is a \$15 fine for the first offense, a \$25 fine for the second offense, a \$30 fine for the third offense, a \$50 fine for fourth offense, and a \$100 fine for the fifth offense.

Several of those present reported on their experiences with violators, their experiences as violators, and discussions on social media about dog issues at the Farm. Also raised was a question about controlling horse poop, which some saw as another issue causing problems at the Farm.

Jack Wiley indicated that there are 3000 licensed dogs in Walpole, that the animal control officer is at the Farm sporadically, and that reliance is on dog walkers to follow the by-law (and on horse owners to clean up after their horses).

Suggestions for managing the problems

- Formation of a volunteer group – Jack Wiley asked if there was any interest in starting a group to deal with these issues by picking up after dog owners who do not pick up their dogs' poop and/or by trying to influence other dog walkers to keep their dogs on leash.
- The following suggestions were made:
 - Anyone who wants to walk a dog at the Farm must volunteer a certain amount of time to pick up after dogs and to try to influence dog walkers to keep dogs on leash.

- Sell tags for Adams Farm dog walkers.
- Put additional dog poop bins around the Farm.
- Create a dog park. Jack Wiley reported that the animal control officer is not in favor of this and that the by-laws will have to be changed to allow this; also the experience at other dog parks has not always been good.
- Implement alternate days for dogs/no dogs at the Farm.
- Prohibit dogs at the Farm.

Additional discussions

- A question was raised about who can give tickets to violators: Jack Wiley indicated that the police and animal control officer can issue tickets to violators that anyone can call the animal control officer to report a violation, and that the animal control officer has disinvited from the Farm dog walkers who have repeatedly violated the leash law.
- A question was raised about how many folks have been bitten by dogs off leash at the Farm. Jack Wiley indicated that there had been several.
- There was some discussion about what goes on at other parks/open spaces in the area (Town Forest, Byrd Park) and about the following:
 - Change/no change to current policy at the Farm
 - More poop bags and bins
 - Fines
 - Enforcement of the by-law
 - Need to deal with the issue of horse poop

Toward the end of the meeting, a couple of those present said they would like to help get the word out to dog walkers that discussion of the problem is taking place and that those who violate the leash by-law and persist in not picking up after their dogs may cause dog walking privileges to be taken away at the Farm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz McAfee, Secretary of the Adams Farm Committee

May 22, 2018

Meeting on Dog Issues at Adams Farm (May 15, 2018): List of Attendees

Name	Town
Wendy Nee	Walpole
Laura Parsons	Walpole
Liz McAfee (AFC)	
Carol Shriber	Norwood
Gary Riggott (AFC)	
Todd Lewis	Walpole
Mike Amaral	Walpole
Paul Abely	Walpole
Emily Johnston	Walpole
Roy Noepel	Norwood
Scott Martin (AFC)	
Kerrin McNally	Walpole
Susan Pakenham	Walpole
Linda Connors (AFC)	
Mike Regan	Norwood
Jack Wiley (AFC)	